

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

## WHO IS **Diabetic** ill-treated in prison TO BLAME?

Matthew O'Hara lived in Hackney for six years before he died recently. He was a diabetic, yet he was not given the vital drugs he needed to stay alive while in prison. His death has caused widespread concern and a local M.P. has taken up the case. The whole episode gives rise to serious doubts about the way prison officers carried out their responsibilities.

Matthew came to Hackney in 1974 and was an active member of Hackney Mental Patients' Union until its collapse in 1976. Since then, he had continued his legal work for patients' rights from his home in Ickburgh Road where he provided accommodation for several ex-patients. He recently completed a play that illustrates the injustices of English mental health laws. He was a company member of Centerprise and a member of Hackney Workers' Educational Association.

Born in Dublin in 1939, Matthew used the Irish name, Maithiu O hEadhra, on all legal documents and it is under this name that his death has been reported in the Irish Press. He was a patient in Dundrum Mental Hospital in Dublin since 1970

when he won his release by taking his case to the High Court and proving that his detention was unconstitutional. He had taught himself constitutional law from textbooks smuggled into the hospital. His unorthodox legal methods secured the release of many fellow patients in Dundrum.

Earlier this year Matthew was summoned for alleged rate arrears. He believed he had been wrongfully arrested and it appears that the rating authority had not established his correct name or who was responsible for the rates before taking action. He refused to provide his correct name to the magistrates court as he intended to have the case reviewed in a higher court where he believed he could prove the impropriety

of the proceedings.

On 12 March the magistrates sent him to Pentonville on a seven-day sentence for contempt of court. On admission to the prison he refused to give his name and this, he alleged, led to an assault on him by prison officers. The assault is denied by the prison.

Matthew had suffered from diabetes since 1959, but had his condition well under control with insulin injections. As soon as he arrived at the prison he told them he was diabetic and several times during his stay he asked for insulin, but never received it. The prison authorities say that he concealed from them that he was diabetic.

On 14 March, Matthew began to cough blood, a result he believed of the assault which had included a kick in the stomach. Two days later he was transferred from the prison to the Royal Northern Hospital where doctors described him as "pale, thin, wasted, lethargic, mentally slow and confused". They recognised these as symptoms of diabetes ketosis acidosis: the build-up of poisons in the body of a diabetic owing to not having received insulin. He was given an immediate transfusion and insulin treatment.

A friend, Andrew Roberts, visited Matthew in the Royal Northern on 17 and 18 March. He told the inquest that his friend's physical condition was so altered that it had taken him 15 minutes to convince himself that it was Matthew. Matthew had great difficulty speaking but he managed to explain that his condition was due to having been refused insulin in the prison. He also referred to an assault.

### assault

On a later occasion Andrew was told that the alleged assault was made by prison officers and had included a blow to the stomach, and that Matthew thought this had caused his stomach problems.

Matthew discharged himself on 19th March, against medical advice. The hospital

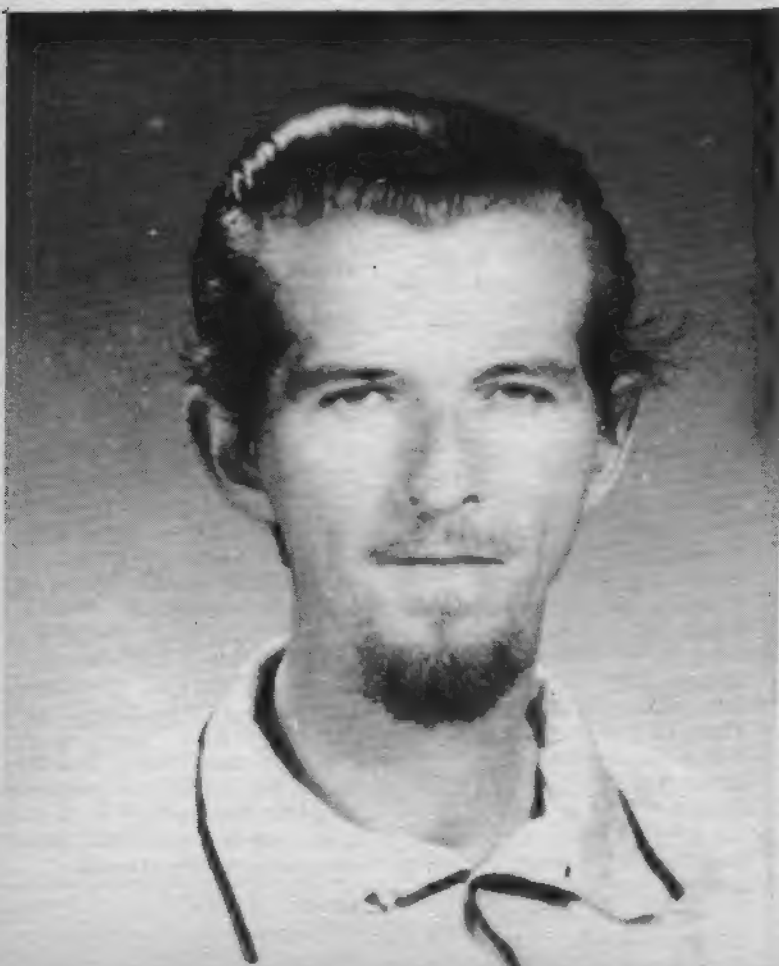
Continued on page three.



## Wind Power in Clissold

What has this to do with Nuclear Disarmament? Why is the 'Ban the Bomb' symbol back on the streets? Where do Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group fit into all this?

ALL IS MADE CLEAR INSIDE - SEE PAGE FOUR.



Matthew O'Hara



### HPP Booksale

Saturday 6th September

2.00pm till 4.00pm

at Centerprise

Admission: 10p

Wonderful book bargains to be had at the famous HPP Book Sale! All types of books at amazing low prices! Proceeds to go to a worthy cause. Donations of books for the sale will be gratefully received. Please contact: 249 0311 eves & weekends.

### INSIDE

I BUY IT FOR THE CROSS-WORD!



- p. 2 INSIDE LEFT
- p. 3 LT OFF THE ROAD
- p. 4 C.N.D. LIVES!
- p. 5 GETTING DOWN TO BRASS TACKS
- p. 6 "WHAT'S ON"
- p. 8 DOWN ON THE LEA

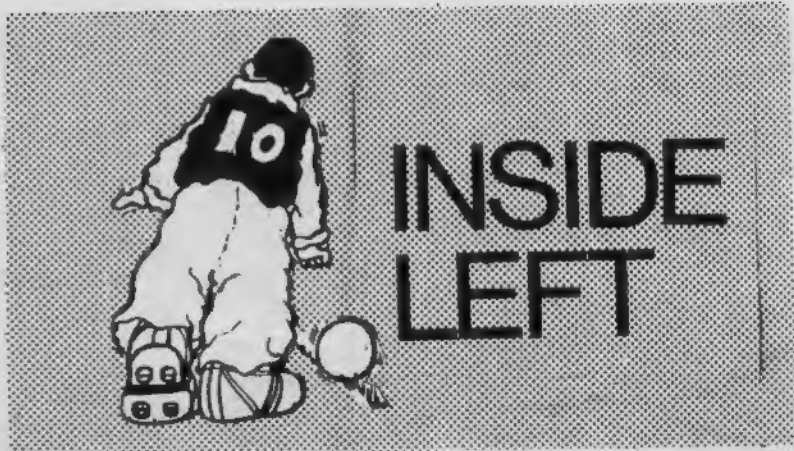


# Old age knocks at Council door

August is a quiet month in Hackney, at least down in the bowels of the Town Hall in Mare Street. The Council goes into recess and members take themselves off to the sun, to rekindle these fires of socialism which burn so deep inside them.

But politicians never relax. There's still the behind-the-scenes machination to get on with. Last month I told you about the GLC member re-election process which is going on at present and the dropping of Ellis Hillman. Ellis has since been very keen to tell people what good works he has performed as the member for Hackney Central, which may be a sign that there may yet be a counter-coup launched by his pals, the old guard mafia who usually control the Labour Party there. And for the benefit of these poor Tories who rely on the Hackney Gazette for their political information, it is true that Ellis has been dumped. It's just that the Gazette didn't know, which is why you had to write them a letter and ask them.

Also, as we predicted last



month, Ken Livingstone is saying goodbye to Hackney North. He managed to get selected to fight Paddington next May, which is a seat that Labour should win, so a new face will be taking up the cudgels to defend the worthies of the northern third of the borough. My prediction is still that it will be Tony Millwood, the current chairperson of the constituency Labour Party.

Another local face that we might see next year in County Hall is that of Councillor

Catharine Hoey. However, she will have to represent an outer London seat, since she works in an ILEA college, and therefore is not allowed to represent an Inner London seat, as she would also be automatically a member of ILEA. Walthamstow is likely to be the next step on the road to the House of Commons for the bearer of Hackney's Olympic message. The question is, will she also get a Parliamentary seat in the next round of selection and manage the feat of being a local councillor, a GLC councillor and an MP at the same time?

My natural good taste forbids me from making any unnecessary and unwholesome remarks about the severe cases of chronic death that seems to be afflicting members of the old guard on the Council itself. So far this year we have seen the demise of no less than three of the OAPs who occupy the comfy green seats in the Council chamber.

At the moment there are vacancies in two wards solidly controlled by the old guard, Wenlock and Chatham. This latter is particularly interesting since for many years it has been represented by three residents of the Trelawney Estate, Messrs Kotz, Millen and West. Who will take over from Dan West now? Will the Chatham branch manage to see past the junction of Morning Lane and Vallette Street? For these and many other answers look in next month's issue of HPP.

It will be a busy season for by-elections this autumn. Hackney Central has at last agreed that Susan Gorman can stand down from Rectory Ward, which she has wanted to do for more than one year. Rectory is one of the few wards in the constituency which has not been totally controlled by the old guard, and it is also the seat which polled the highest Communist vote in the 1978 elections, due to a lot of hard work by local party secretary David Green. The CP is rumoured to be wanting to adopt a broader approach to this election. Although David Green has been re-adopted as the candidate, the CP is keen to promote him as a broad democratic alliance candidate - and if Rectory Labour Party have some turgid right-winger forced on them, then it might be a good fight.

## Youth on the dole

Dear HPP,

This is an open letter to all voluntary organisations and community groups working in Hackney asking for assistance in meeting the needs of the borough's unemployed school leavers.

The problems of finding jobs or getting any work experience are becoming more critical for Hackney school leavers. Already those registered with the Careers Service are up 80 per cent on last year, and vacancies notified are down by 60 per cent; there are four young people unemployed for every job available in the borough. However, many of these young people could probably get work in the City and West End if they could be helped to become more competitive.

The Council is most concerned to help these young people and recognises that it cannot do it alone. Apart from any other consideration, many of the activities which the young people themselves would like to be involved in are present in the voluntary sector and not present within the Council's organisation.

### TARGET

It is proposed to set up a Community Service scheme for 40 young people using Central Government funds, i.e. the MSC. (A target start date of 1 October has been suggested.) It is possible that this might usefully be an extension of the PIP Youth Workforce.

The MSC schemes are learning and confidence-building exercises for young people to enable them to take jobs or further training. The young people, called "trainees", are paid an allowance of £23.50 per week while on a scheme and this is seen as analogous to a student grant. However, they are still registered as unemployed and the Careers Service is continually seeking permanent employment for them. The schemes are not "work" in the way we usually think of it. At least one day a week the trainees would be undergoing formal and informal training at whatever level was individually required.

The Community Service scheme now proposed should be a combination of projects and placements to meet MSC requirements for this type of scheme. I should be very grateful if you could consider within your organisation/group whether:

1. you have any projects which need to be carried out (eg landscaping of day nursery gardens; refurbishment of equipment; running a creche or library) or
2. goods which you might like to be able to obtain more cheaply (eg patchwork quilts for the elderly, soft toys for playgroups and day nurseries) or
3. whether your group could give work experience to a trainee in a day nursery, office or other activity on a one-to-one basis.

Mrs Sue Gwaspari, who has a

## LETTERS

brief from the MSC to expand Community Service schemes in London, is working with PIP to progress the scheme. Mrs Gwaspari is experienced in this field and co-incidentally has a good knowledge of Hackney having been involved in play provision from the voluntary side three or four years ago.

If your group is interested and think you can help or if you would like more information, please let me know or else contact Mrs Gwaspari on 278 6917.

Caroline Blythe  
Employment Promotion Officer  
Hackney Economic Development Unit  
1/11 Hoxton Street  
London N1 (729 3712)

## LT is top heavy

Dear HPP

Your otherwise interesting article on London Transport (August) is somewhat misleading on the question of staff productivity.

Low productivity need not be the result of overmanning. In London, where traffic congestion continues to worsen, buses are increasingly held up turned short of their destinations, and unable to complete their day's schedules. Hence, bus mileage per worker falls as the staff are forced to sit and watch the traffic.

Your article also implies that overmanning is considered in terms of guards, conductors, etc. However, one of LT's most serious problems appears to be top-heavy administration, perhaps resulting from the days when London Country buses were part of the same organisation.

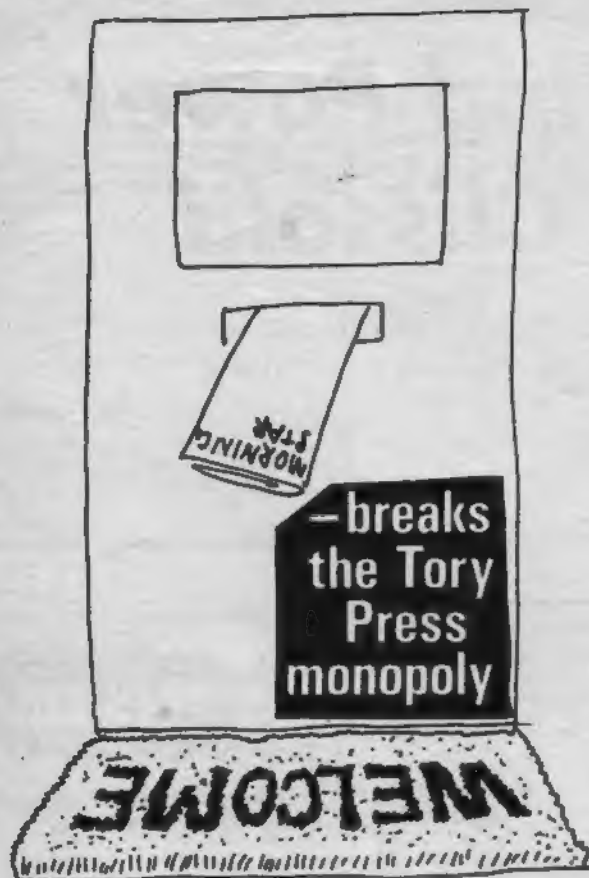
It is significant that productivity has fallen despite one-person operation of buses and increasing use of automation.

A final point on the subject of train services, which you suggest the Borough lacks. That is not quite fair. True, there is no Tube, but it is now possible to book through to the Underground from BR stations and Hackney Central and Hackney Wick. In fact, BR has a total of nine stations in the Borough, with two more projected. True also that services are not all that they might be, but for many journeys, rail is now cheaper than bus. Yet people do not use the train.

We are continuing our campaign for service improvements on both bus and rail, and welcome new support and comments from anyone in Hackney.

Yours faithfully  
Tim Woods  
Research Officer  
Hackney Public Transport Action Committee

## Read the Morning Star every day



available from your newsagent

## Marxism Today

Theoretical and discussion journal of the Communist Party  
Published monthly • 50 pence



## REFUGE UPDATE

The long-running battle being fought by Hackney Women's Aid to establish a refuge for battered women in Hackney continued last week in the ironically named 'Marriage Room' of the Town Hall. The meeting actually delayed the opening of the refuge at least until the next meeting in late September.

Since the only refuge in Hackney was closed down last October attempts have been made to open another allocated by the Housing Department. Delays lasting several months have occurred over the non-arrival of architects' drawings and alterations necessary to comply to fire regulations.

Alterations to the premises have been necessitated by the desire to classify the refuge as a hostel rather than a multiple occupation. Although the council have agreed to this in principle, the "working inefficiencies"

within the planning department has caused difficulties.

Planning permission has not been refused, it has simply not been dealt with.

Recently the GLC Fire Brigade Officer visited the premises to advise on fire precautions and recommended the installation of fire extinguishers and sprinklers. Though necessary, these precautions could lead to further delay due to the extra cost involved.

Although the Social Services Department has done much work to hasten the project it is still bogged down in bureaucracy. We suggest that if you feel strongly about this matter you should petition your local MP to bring pressure to bear.

Meanwhile if you do need help Hackney Women's Aid runs an advice line every Thursday from 1-5pm on 249 8334.

## FIGHTBACK

At the Fightback meeting of June 7th, it was agreed to convene a meeting of all grant-aided organisations in Hackney. As a result of Hackney Borough Council's "economies", the Council Grants Panel decided only to allow a 10% increase in grants to allow for inflation, instead of the 15% originally suggested to cover rising costs.

Increases that organisations have received appear to be varied, however, and if most organisations receive an extra 10% this will mean a reduction in expenditure: whether this saving is made in salaries or other costs, some small organisations will be put into jeopardy and larger ones will have to reduce their services.

In addition, the current position on inflation for

Partnership grants is extremely unclear. Councillors will be taking decisions in September and it is very important that maximum pressure is applied for realistic inflation agreements.

The meeting will look at:

1. the level of grant increases organisations have received from Hackney Borough Council;
2. the likely consequences of inadequate increases;
3. discussion of ways to obtain proper increases both on individual and a joint basis;
4. need for some form of regular contact for community and voluntary groups about funding.

The meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 4 September at the Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.

## O'HARA

continued from page 1.

report stated that he had objected to the mode of administering insulin and had demanded the removal of the tubes. It was not possible to arrange further care because of the patient's attitude. Later the same day he was visited at his home by Mrs. Valerie Roberts and Hackney Councillor, Richard Gee. They were so disturbed at his condition that they persuaded him to move to the Robert's home in Glenarm Rd., Hackney. On 21 March he was taken by ambulance to Hackney Hospital.

Matthew was in hospital for five weeks, and for four of these he remained very ill. Treatment of his diabetes was complicated by his stomach problems. For a month he continually vomited mucus and could not hold down any food or drink. In the last week he began to recover and on 30 April he discharged himself, saying that he needed the challenge of being in charge of his own body.

## cheerful

At first his friends were worried, but self help appeared to be the therapy he

needed, for within a week he was visiting them on his bicycle. His GP, Dr. Smith, saw him on 9 May when he was very thin but cheerful. He was pleased with his treatment in Hackney Hospital and told his doctor that he was "picking up". He did not tell the doctor about the assault or the refusal of insulin in Pentonville. Asked at the inquest to comment on Matthew's credibility Dr. Smith said that if he had told him he would have had no reason to disbelieve him.

Stanley Clinton Davis, MP for Hackney Central, has sent three letters to the Home Office about this case since March. The Home Office have alleged that Mr O'Hara concealed from the prison that he was diabetic, and they say there is no evidence for the assault. Their letters cast doubt on Mr O'Hara's sanity. Dr Smith, however, told the coroner that Matthew had been his patient since 1972 and he was definitely not insane.

Summing up the coroner, Dr Chambers, said that cases where the body was found in such a condition that the cause of death was unascertainable were not infrequent

## LT: end of the road

This month saw the start of a programme to replace Hackney's Fleetline buses with reconditioned Green Line Routemasters, which are in fact over 20 years old. The Fleetline bus, designed by BL engineers as a front-entry, one-person operated vehicle, has been unable to survive London's traffic conditions.

Known as the BM by bus crews the Fleetline possesses poor road-handling characteristics in wet weather, due to the extra weight of the engine positioned at the rear of the bus. Also, having been designed as a one-operator bus, the driver/conductor has poor crowd control over standing passengers and this adds to the stress placed on bus crews.

The scrapping of the Fleetline buses has meant considerable costs. The reintroduction of the reconditioned

Routemasters will cost millions of pounds to London Transport and ultimately passengers throughout the capital. It is another example of poor forethought by the LT Executive. The costs will undoubtedly be reflected in higher fares.

It is management mistakes like this which have made London's bus service one of the most expensive, per passenger mile, in the world.

COMPARATIVE COSTS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN MAJOR CITIES

	Fare (in pence)	
	per km	per journey
London (bus)	5.6	44
London (rail)	5.9	19
Paris (bus)	1.5	—
Paris (rail)	1.8	16
New York	—	21
Washington	3.1	23
Munich	6.1	—
Hamburg	2.7	—
Montreal	—	17

Source: Financial Times, June 1980.



## Morons Visit Ireland

Last month local band Oxy and the Morons went to Belfast along with members of the Troops Out Movement, and played in the 'Rock the Block' open air festival. Below, Fred Patriot of the band describes what they saw, and the impressions they formed of life in the besieged city.

Used as a last-minute stop gap after numerous wanky libertarians (Pop Group, Slits, etc.) had pulled out, the Morons embarked for Belfast on Friday morning. The purpose - to play the 'Rock the Block' open air festival. The concert was organised to mark the anniversary of internment and was co-ordinated from this end by Charter 80, a campaign for human rights for the men in H-Block and the women in Armagh.

Arriving at Andersonstown social club (in the heart of the besieged Catholic area) late Friday, we received the massively warm response we'd come to expect from a previous visit from both the locals and those sartorially snappy pop stars, the Au Pairs.

To sit in the community club (far more community-oriented than an English pub and and certainly no 'Provo drinking hole') was to witness

exactly the extent of English media misrepresentation. We were seeing an entire community, from young to old, united against one thing - British repression. Fuck the cosy view of IRA 'animals' and bullied underlings. The Provos are ordinary family people of the community and given its willing support.

It has to be admitted there are occurrences which we the British with our relative freedoms find difficult to take (eg, knee-cappings). Again these are blown out of proportion by the British media and have to be taken in the context of a community at war. There is no police force (the exclusively loyalist RUC being obviously unacceptable) and therefore self-discipline is at a premium. In such a hard-pressed environment there is no room for manoeuvre with persistent transgressors.

What war? Simply walking

back from the club we were stopped and questioned three times by soldiers (geezer who point rifles at your head). On arrival at the area where we stayed we were engulfed by a vision of total craziness. Car-fuelled bonfires in the middle of the road, looming saracens, people with their legs ripped off by rubber bullets (which in fact are 4-inch cylinders of hard plastic!). It made 'Apocalypse Now' look like a B-movie.

The gig itself on the Saturday was anti-climactic. Poorly attended but fun, it seemed insignificant after the events of the previous night. The following night was spent digging in solidarity again with the community.

The long haul back from Stranraer was spent in a barely comprehending stupor, reflecting on what we had actually experienced during the weekend.

Office have simply dragged their feet. They take about 7 weeks to reply to a letter and their replies have been obstructive and uninformative. They claim that Matthew brought his illness on himself and that this conclusion is based on medical reports in their possession, but they have not sent us copies of the reports. We believe that they have selected passages from the reports that seem to support their case. A passage from a report read at the inquest suggests that they have suppressed the parts that reflect badly on the prison. We want all the evidence produced and a full

After the inquest friends of Matthew O'Hara expressed satisfaction with the manner in which it had been conducted. Speaking for them Andrew Roberts said:

"For 5 months now Stanley Clinton Davis MP has been pressing the Home Office for an explanation of what happened to Matthew in Pentonville Prison. The Home

and detailed inquiry into Matthew's treatment."

Matthew was buried at Manor Park Cemetery on 16 July. Along with relatives and other friends the mourners included comrades from the Mental Patient's Union, representatives of Centreprise, Councillors Ruth and Richard Gee, and actress Sue Pollard. Amongst the floral tributes that surrounded the coffin was one from the Friends of Blair Peach.

The Friends of Matthew O'Hara would be grateful for any contributions towards the costs of their campaign. They should be sent to: Andrew Roberts, 177 Glenarm Rd, Hackney, E5 0NB.



# C.N.D. COMEBACK AT FESTIVAL

The Anti-Nuclear Festival held at Clissold Park on Sunday August 10th was a significant event. Organised by Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group (H.A.N.G.) and supported by Hackney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (H.C.N.D.), it strengthened the links between the two groups and drew attention to the connection between nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

During the afternoon members of H.C.N.D. built a nuclear fall-out shelter to the specifications of the Government handbook "Protect and Survive" (i.e. one table, one radio, some sandbags etc.) whilst others in the group read extracts from the booklet on stage. One extract which highlighted the discrepancies between the government's version of protection in a nuclear attack and the disarmers', stated: "Limit the fire hazards. Remove anything which may burn easily, such as paper and cardboard. Keep buckets of water ready. Do not smoke." "But" said Hackney C.N.D. "when the bomb drops it will form a giant fireball perhaps three miles across, and the inside of it will be as hot as the sun. Isolated fires could start up to 28 miles away, and could all join up together in a great fire-storm. Through "Protect and Survive", the government is misleading us. Their instructions will protect only a few. If they told us the truth about the probable after-effects of nuclear war - the disruption of society as we know it, and the long term health hazards from burns, radiation sickness and cancers - if they told us the truth, would any-one want to survive?"

C.N.D. is back - and is growing into the biggest mass movement this country has ever seen.

C.N.D. began in the early 1950s when the public's concern about H-bomb testing grew into a mass disarmament campaign. The black and white C.N.D. symbol was known the world over, so too, were its peaceful demonstrations, 'sit ins' and Aldermaston marches. Yet, though many C.N.D. groups sprung up in those early years, as many quickly died down again. They had not become community-based mass movements. C.N.D. had touched the middle class intelligentsia but had not reached the grass roots of their communities. The fact remains that not more than 4% of those people on Aldermaston marches in the early 50s and 60s were working class.

A kind of Christian, moral outrage was the fuel that fired C.N.D. in this period. For some members this was enough, yet many others wanted to build a C.N.D. that was 'truly radical.'

It has been argued that C.N.D. "failed to connect" in the 60s because its base was both ethical and theological, possessing neither strong political, nor intellectual arguments. Although this is probably true, the failure of C.N.D. to build and sustain a mass movement lay also in the ideological split between the moderates and radicals (Committee of 100), which resulted in the radicals moving on to the Vietnam issue; and too close ties with the inner conflicts of Labour party democracy.

## 1980

In 1980 a new form of C.N.D. has grown from the ashes of the old. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is still broad enough to contain people of all political and religious persuasion - but it would be naive to suggest



## Hackney C.N.D.

that disarmament is simply a moral issue today. The siting of cruise missiles in Europe and increases in defence spending by the U.S.A, N.A.T.O. and Warsaw Pact countries are all political decisions. C.N.D. has to provide alternatives...workable alternatives to war. Not utopian daydreams nor empty moralising, but sophisticated political arguments based on an understanding of world issues. The aims of C.N.D. today are two-fold. In the short term the call is for no cruise missiles in Britain and no up-dating Polaris. In the long term - disarmament, and the creation of a nuclear free zone in Europe.

Hackney C.N.D. has a rota of speakers - local people - who visit groups and organisations in Hackney when asked to do so, spreading information about the realities of a nuclear war, and advising Hackney people to Protest and Survive. Community groups and organisations are being asked to affiliate to Hackney C.N.D. (at a cost of £3 per year), and individuals asked to become members (50p per year).

If your factory, office, school or organisation would like to book a speaker; or you would like to affiliate or become a member of H.C.N.D. write to:

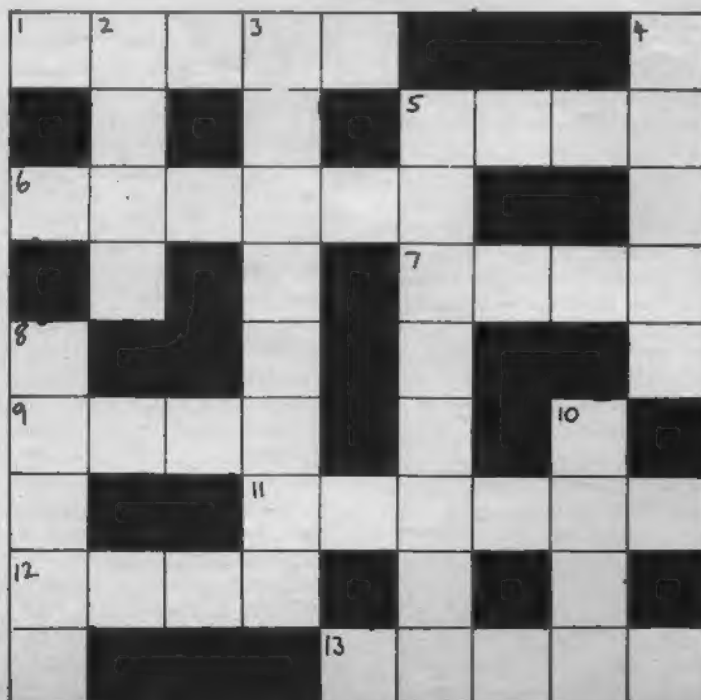
The Secretary,  
Hackney C.N.D.  
Box No. 27,  
136, Kingland High St,  
London E.8.

HACKNEY C.N.D.'s FIRST PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17th AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOM IN HACKNEY TOWN HALL, MARE STREET, E.8. AT 7.30 p.m. THE BBC FILM "THE WAR GAME" WILL BE SHOWN AND DAN SMITH, AUTHOR OF 'DEFENCE IN THE REALM IN THE 80s' AND C.N.D./EUROPEAN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ACTIVIST WILL BE THE MAIN SPEAKER. DO NOT MISS IT!



## Speedword

BY QUANGO



### CLUES

#### ACROSS

1. Rest period (5) 5. Soft feathers (4) 6. Matter of personal concern (6) 7. Period of time (4) 9. Go by (4) 11. Agreement between states (6) 12. Bachelor of (4) 13. Shoot at a bird? (5)

#### DOWN

2. Log craft (4) 3. Psychiatrists (8) 4. ZZZZZ... (5) 5. Remove dirt from clothes without water (3,5) 8. Javelin (5) 10. End (4)

\*\*\*\*\*

Solution to last month's SPEEDWORD

ACROSS: 3. Force 6.Task 7.Edna 8.Raygun 11.Enrage 14.Cure 15.Sped 16.Whist

DOWN: 1.Star 2.Espy 4.Opener 5.Caning 9.Ambush 10.Greens 12.Alps 13.Eddy.



# ANARCHY AT DALSTON JUNCTION

Remember a semi-derelict warehouse at the end of Ashwin Street? Been there since April? HPP hasn't and so missed the opening of Brass Tacks, London's first multi-purpose community workshop. Our society is based on the Brave New World of conspicuous consumption - or, as Aldous Huxley neatly put it, Ending is Better than Mending. It is to the advantage of manufacturers to encourage people to discard anything slightly dated, worn out or broken. Often it is, in fact, cheaper to buy a new washing machine than to mend the old one - and spare parts go out of production almost as fast as the models they fit.

## Brain train

Two years ago Michael Young of the Mutual Aid Centre (and the Brain Train open university scheme for commuters) decided to do something about this crazy state of affairs, and about the growing shortage of skilled and semi-skilled labour in the electrical and repair industry. He set in motion a project to found a workshop where young people could be trained to do repairs, on a kind of apprenticeship basis, and where we consumers could go to get our jaded electrical appliances mended.

## Not Junk

Brass Tacks is the result of this project. The ground floor and basement of the decaying warehouse off Dalston Junction have been converted into a complex of workshops, office space and a shop, where some of the repaired goods are sold. The shop serves as a frontis-

piece to the whole venture and is tastefully done up in teak finish, fitted carpet and strategically placed ferns. This was the idea of Robin Dean, manager of Brass Tacks, who came to the venture from a career in commercial advertising and whose attitudes are coloured by his experience of the world of selling. "Although it's an alternative project there's no reason why it can't be sold like any commercial venture, with an aim to professionalism. That's why I've made the shop as professional as possible and not like a junk shop".

## Trainees

Behind the shop are the workshops where 19 trainees are being taught the skills of electrical and furniture repair and restoration. This, the core of Brass Tacks, is split into five sections; electrical appliance repair, dealing with things like irons and washing machines; electro-mechanical repair, for TV's, radios, stereos etc; small-scale furniture restoration where trainees learn to do french polishing, laquer spraying and other finish jobs; a large-scale furniture repair workshop, where articles are stripped down, mended and rebuilt; and an upholstery department. Trainees are referred to Brass Tacks from job centres all over London. Generally they are between 19 and 24, although the long-term unemployed are also now eligible. There's been no problem filling the spaces and at least ten people have applied for each of the 20 places for the next intake of trainees. Selection is supposed to be on a first come, first serve basis but,

according to Robin Dean, some sifting out has to be done: "Some lads think it's going to be a doddle for a year and aren't really interested in what we're doing and aiming at". Brass Tacks tries to pick out the applicants who really do want some sort of trade skill behind them. There have been only two dismissals (for bad time-keeping) from the present group of trainees, even though they had to actually help build the workshops before moving in. All 19 are men, as two women dropped out -- one of whom is now the shop manageress. The trainees will leave with a report and dossier of photographs on their work to show future employers. One has already been enrolled for a further course at the City Guild.

## Aims

What, then, are the aims of Brass Tacks? Robin Dean called himself and his co-workers "anarchists against consumer society". Before

Parts are 'cannibalised' and several defunct steam irons, say, are turned into one working iron.

## Chain

Ultimately Michael Young and Robin Dean hope to set up a whole chain of community workshops across London. In the meantime they are trying to make Brass Tacks a self-sufficient enterprise. At the moment it is financed by grants; £128,000 from the Manpower Services Commission, which pays the supervisors' wages; £70,800 also from MSC for extras like materials, equipment, rent, rates and running costs; and £14,500 from Hackney Partnership Programme, which has been spent on two vans and more equipment and machinery. The MSC grant has been guaranteed until October 1981 and the Hackney Partnership grant will continue for three years. Organisations run on MSC grants are theoretically forbidden to make a profit, but Brass Tacks has persuaded the authorities to waive this. As Robin Dean pointed out: "This is one of the first STEP projects to make money, but they've accepted that this is going to happen and Brass Tacks has told them that unless we make a profit we'll never get off public funding". Brass Tacks hopes to break even in about two years, although the step to self-sufficiency may have to be made



The warehouse as it was before Brass Tacks took over. Go and look for yourselves if you want to see what it's like now.

## Call-Out

The organisers of Brass Tacks are anxious to prevent it becoming too commercial a venture and to keep the idea of "community" going. One of the trainees is permanently employed doing a call-out repair service for old-age pensioners and other needy people referred to them by Task Force. These jobs range from simple repairs which chain shops won't touch, to fitting carpets and curtains. Brass Tacks tries to offer a service with "a little more sympathy and understanding". A plan for the future is to open an evening do-it-yourself workshop, sometime in September. People will be able to bring their own broken stuff in and learn how to mend it themselves. Brass Tacks supervisors will run these week-end and evening classes, possibly backed up by a part-time worker funded by ILEA. Robin Dean was also anxious to emphasise that they are not trying to undercut local traders and repair shops. The intention is merely to "offer a repair facility at competitive rates". In fact local traders have supported the venture and Rumbelows has actually offered some of its out-dated stock.

## Future

Other plans for the future are linked with Boot Strap, another community venture. Boot Strap offers workshop space and marketing and retailing assistance to local craftspeople. They, in return, are expected to take on an apprentice. It is the hope of both Brass Tacks and Boot Strap that trainees and craftspeople will set up self-employed "cottage industry" type businesses. A creche has been provided for Boot Strap and this will be shared by Brass Tacks when the evening classes start. There will also be a canteen and shop for technical books and pamphlets. Brass Tacks is still in the throes of creation, but as Robin Dean said, they aren't trying to present a slick image to the public. They are working at both consolidating what has been done and expanding into new areas. One area might be regular auctions (there's already been one) to sell off donated articles of furniture that aren't worth repairing. Meanwhile any offers of furniture or domestic appliances should be made to Brass Tacks on 249 9462.



Above: Ironing out a few technical problems, while (below left) a trainee strips down a chair.

at the expense of some of the trainee positions.

## Going it alone

One source of income is the sale of the reconditioned, better class furniture. The pricing of this has been "a bit of a headache" for the workshop, but they try to base it on the cost of the materials used and on "what we think is a reasonable price for a shop at Dalston Junction. We can't expect the same kind of customer as at Chalk Farm and we don't want to put people off. So we try to have a fair mix in the shop - some rather expensive articles alongside cheaper ones which haven't had much done to them". Electrical stuff tends to need more work and go for less so it all balances out. When I visited the shop a load of irons going to £8.00 were sitting beside a £50.00 chest of drawers and there were several chairs for £1.50 each. And it's not all up-market antiques. The workshop also repairs old favourites like Parker Knoll chairs and 'ordinary' furniture.





# WHATS ON September

## THEATRE

**NEW HALF MOON THEATRE** 213  
Mile End Road, E1 (480 6465)  
*Through September: 'Pal Joey'*  
A mature, satirical comedy  
from the Rodgers & Hart team.  
With Denis Lawson, Sian Phil-  
lips, Jean Hart.  
Performances: Mon-Fri 8pm  
Sat 5pm & 8.30pm

**KINGS HEAD THEATRE CLUB**  
115 Upper St, Islington N1.  
(226 1916)  
\* 1st September for 3 weeks:  
'Pack Up All Your Cares & Woe'  
With Bertice Reading and Corky  
Hale  
Times of performances: Dinner  
starts at 7pm, show at 8pm.

**LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE**  
14 Dagmar Passage, Cross St, N1  
(226 1787)  
\* From 13th September:  
'The Wild Night of the Witches'  
Performances: Saturdays and  
Sundays only, at 3pm.  
\* Saturday mornings:  
Variety Show (for three  
to five year olds)  
Performances: 11am.

## MUSIC

**CROWN & CASTLE**  
Dalston Junction, E8  
(254 3678)  
The Meeting Place folk club  
has Irish folk music every  
Fri, Sat & Sun evenings.  
Resident band Cara. Plus  
surprise guests.  
8.30 - 11.00 pm. Free

**THE PEGASUS**, 109 Green Lanes,  
N16 (226 5930)  
The Pegasus now has a resident  
band playing every night of  
the week, covering several  
styles of jazz music. Big  
Chief, who have played there  
for 3 years, are back from  
their holiday at the begin-  
ning of the month. A very com-  
petent band, they play many  
styles of jazz with ease. In  
addition, there are a number  
of other groups: Combo Passe's  
'alternative cabaret', the  
jazz-rock formations of  
Pentagon, and the big band  
sound of The Brian Booth Jun-  
ior Orchestra, to name but a  
few. The weekly line-up for  
September (and, presumably,  
for the near future) is as  
follows:

\* Saturday 8pm: Big Chief  
\* Sunday lunch: The Brian  
Booth Junior Orchestra  
\* Sunday 8pm: Combo Passe  
\* Monday 8pm: Pentagon:  
admission 50p.  
\* Tuesday 8pm: Julie Amiet &  
Friends  
\* Wednesday 8pm: Cha Cha Cha  
\* Thursday 8pm: Resident jazz  
band - check for details.  
\* Friday 8pm: The Soul Band  
Admission (unless otherwise  
stated): £1.

HPP is aiming to build up a regular What's On section,  
listing all events taking place in and around Hackney.  
These listings are free, so if you have anything that  
could go in - meetings, plays, benefits, musical events,  
jumble sales, etc - please send us the details. We need:  
type of event, date, place, time, entrance fee and other  
relevant details. Listings for the October issue should  
be sent to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, E8, before 22nd September

## CINEMA

**KONAK CINEMA**, 11 Stoke New-  
ington Road. (254 2415)  
\* From Sun 31st August:  
'Mac Vicar'  
\* From Sun 7th September:  
'The Way of the Dragon'  
'Fist of Fury'  
\* From Sun 14th September:  
'Urban Cowboy'  
\* From Sun 21st September:  
'Breaking Glass'

Programmes start 7.10pm, but  
check with box office for de-  
tails.



**RIO CINEMA** (254 6677)  
107 Kingsland High St, E8.  
For details of performances,  
see advert. on this page.

## MEETINGS

**HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP**  
Thurs 4th: Public meeting.  
6.30-8pm at Centerprise,  
136 Kingsland High St, E8.

**HACKNEY ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE**  
Tues 9th: Public meeting.  
8-10pm at Centerprise, 136  
Kingsland High St., E8.

**HACKNEY FIGHTBACK**  
Mon 1st: Public meeting, held  
at the Trades Union & Labour  
Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

**REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST  
TENDENCY**

The Next Step readers' group  
meets every Thursday at 7.30  
at the Trades & Labour Hall,  
96 Dalston Lane, E8.  
Discussions are on racism,  
Ireland, unemployment and  
other important issues.

Contact: ELWAR, Box 22,  
136 Kingsland High St, E8.

## COURSES

**FREE FORM ARTS TRUST**

38 Dalston La, E8 (249 3394)  
Free Form is offering 2 short  
workshop courses over the win-  
ter period - November 1980 and  
January 1981.  
The projects will offer an  
introduction to community arts  
and the potential for creative  
activities in play and other  
community settings.  
The projects are open to  
anyone who is interested, and  
will be particularly valuable  
to people involved in organ-  
ising or running play activi-  
ties.

November 80: Wed 5th-Sun 9th  
January 81: Tue 13th-Sat 17th

Each project will last 5 days.  
The fee will be £50.

Future courses: Free form is  
also considering running a  
short community arts course  
during the winter period which  
would be based on the creation  
of a fire show. Like all its  
other courses this would con-  
centrate on the techniques  
used when involving people in  
a creative activity, rather  
than on technical training.  
If anyone is interested,  
contact Sarah Mudd at Free  
Form, at the above address.

**HACKNEY CO-OP DEVELOPMENTS** is  
organising a series of courses  
on workers' co-operatives, at  
the Clapton Adult Education  
Institute. The courses will  
be divided into 10 weekly  
sessions, beginning on 16th  
September. Topics discussed  
will be: 'Can Co-ops succeed?',  
'Industrial Democracy', 'Mak-  
ing it Work', 'Changing  
People's Work Patterns'.  
Enrolment for the courses  
will be on 9th September at  
Brooke House School, Kenning-  
hall Rd, E5 (tel: 985 9646).

For further information con-  
tact: Hackney Co-operative Dev-  
elopments, 16 Dalston La, E8.  
(254 3743)



**CRAFT WORKSHOP** 226 6001  
The Factory, Mathias Rd, N16  
Creche facilities and coffee  
available. Workshop runs on  
Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.30

**YOUNG WRITERS' WORKSHOP**  
Tues 9th: Workshop meets at  
Centerprise, 136 Kingsland  
High St, E8.



**CHATS PALACE** 42-44 Brooksbys  
Watk, E9 (986 6714)

Chats should be returning to  
its full programme of events  
in September. For details,  
contact Chats at the above  
address.

**Regular events:**

\*Sundays at 12 noon:  
Lunchtime jazz  
\*Thursdays at 8pm:  
Home Grown Music

## OTHER EVENTS

**GEFFRYE MUSEUM**

Kingsland Road, E2.  
Exhibition of Photographs  
of people working in the  
Arts and Crafts in Hackney.  
Organised by Hackney Umbrella  
Open till 14th Sept.

## SMALL ADS

**HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS  
BOOK SALE**

Saturday 6th September, 2-4pm  
at Centerprise,  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.  
Admission: 10p.

For sale: Compact b/w TV,  
Sanyo, 6 months old, under  
guarantee, 10" screen: £50  
ono. Ibanez classical guitar  
good condition, £35. Steam  
iron, in working order, £5.  
Four violins, between £30  
and £70. Touring canoe  
(Cresta Kayak), £60.  
Phone Craig, 249 9398.

Accommodation urgently wanted  
for woman moving to London  
in late September. Phone  
Julia 0273 690469 evenings  
and weekends.

## SUN POWER

83 blackstock rd  
tel: 01-226 1799

**books on**

Nuclear Power  
Alternative Energy  
Ecology, Nature  
Organic Gardening  
Self-Sufficiency  
Crafts, D.I.Y.  
Whole food, Health  
Feminism  
Anarchism  
Fiction  
Children's books

open: Mo-Sa 10-6, Thu 12-7

tube: finebury pk.

**CENTERPRISE**, a multi-purpose  
community centre, bookshop  
and coffee bar, requires a  
worker to share responsibility  
for running the bookshop. S/he  
should have some experience  
of bookshop, library or com-  
parable work and business  
experience would be welcome.  
The worker will be a member  
of the Centerprise collective,  
sharing work and responsibil-  
ity throughout the whole  
project.

Send large stamped envelope  
for details, to:  
Centerprise Trust Ltd.,  
136 Kingsland High St.,  
London E8 2NS.

**EAST LONDON WORKERS  
AGAINST RACISM**

For legal advice or physical  
defence against racist attacks  
phone: 01 274 3951, or write  
to: ELWAR, c/o Box 22,  
136 Kingsland High Street,  
London E8.

Advertise in HPP's wonderful  
small ads column - the medium  
that works for you! 3p per  
word: must be paid in advance.

## THE RIO

107, KINGSLAND HIGH ST., E.8.

### Tel : 254 6677

SEPTEMBER

**Weekly Programme**

Mon 18 August THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK  
for three weeks

Mon 11 Sept LA CAGE AUX FOLLES plus  
for six days SOME LIKE IT HOT

**Lates and Sunday Matinees**

Fri 5 Sept ROCK N' ROLL HIGH SCHOOL plus  
EAT MY DUST

Sat 6 Sept THE PRODUCERS plus  
BLOOD RELATIONS

Sat 20 Sept THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW plus  
THE PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE

We regret that we cannot provide you with further  
details of the Rio's September programme. This  
was not available as this issue of HPP went to  
press. Please phone the cinema for full programme.



# information

Regular readers of HPP will have noticed the absence of this page from the last two month's issues. This is because we are trying to publish the information on it less frequently than before - about every three or four months. Thus we need to know any corrections or amendments to the copy below AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and no later than 1st October. Please send them to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, London E8.

## Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

**HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8  
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

**TASK FORCE**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620  
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N6.

**HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE**  
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

**HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**  
74 Downham Road N1.  
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm

**OFF CENTRE**  
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8586  
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

**FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE**  
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.  
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.  
986 2233 (24 hours)  
985 0973 (office hours)  
986 9148

**FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS**  
Represents Borough, GLC, housing assocn and private tenants.  
Contact Terry Robinson, 380 Old St, EC1. 739 3631.

**HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP**  
contact 249 2281 or 249 8715.

**ACORN TENANTS ASSOCIATION**  
Represents New Islington & Hackney Housing Assocn tenants.  
Contact Terry Robinson. 739 3631

## Ecology

**HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**  
Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Reed, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

**HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP**  
Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power.  
Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact 226 1799

**SUN POWER ECOLOGY CENTRE**  
83, Blackstock Road, N.4.  
Bookshop specialises in the environment, cooking, health, education, children's books; also crafts and some wholefoods. 01 225 1799

## HACKNEY SOCIETY

An amenity group, affiliated to the Civic Trust, concerned with Hackney's environment and architecture. Meets on the third Monday of each month.  
Details from Chairman, David Batchelor, Tel. 985 7937 or Secretary, Robert Hill, 75 Glyn Road E8 Tel. 986 8761.

## Women

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP**  
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

**RAPE CRISIS CENTRE**  
Tel. 340 2146. 24 hour information and advice.

**HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN**  
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, N11. Contact 249 3768 for details.

## HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets monthly - talks, films, activities. For information phone Nathalie 254 9508.

## OFF CENTRE

Drop-in centre for Young Unemployed.

Free snacks, use of telephones and newspapers. A meeting place for the young unemployed.

Off Centre Basement.  
25 Hackney Grove, E8.  
986 4016.

## Community Centres

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
Bookshop and office hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.  
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.  
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.  
**FACILITIES:**  
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.  
**ADVICE CENTRE:**  
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 8.30-7.30pm.  
**READING CENTRE:**  
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.  
**PUBLISHING PROJECT:**  
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.

**WALLY POSTER CENTRE**  
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.  
Community Centre with many activities:  
**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE:** every weekday 9am-6pm.  
**ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:**  
Every Monday at 7pm.  
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.  
See also ADVICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

**THE FACTORY**  
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3086.  
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, children's drop-in group (free), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.  
Contact them for further details.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays. 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome). "Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays. 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Contact them for further information.  
Also see ADVICE and Neighbourhood English Classes and Gingerbread under COMMUNITY GROUPS listings on this page.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.  
Many events take place in the theatre each month - see the EVENTS AND MEETINGS section. Also see ADVICE listing.

**CHATS PALACE**  
42-44 Brooksby's Walk, E9.  
986 6714. Meeting space, bar for club members, duplicating, workshop, clubs, classes, jazz, music hall, supplementary school, youth activities, hall for hire.

## Education

**ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES**  
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEL, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.  
Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEL, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.  
Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7321.  
June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pittfield Street, N1. 739 5153.  
Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.  
Col Weatherald, HIGSBURY MANOR AEL, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.  
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

**HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME**  
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16 on Thursday mornings.

## Meditation

**TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION**  
Partnership for Progress in Hackney: regular introductory talks. Ring 254 6280 for details.

**ANANDA MARGA**  
1 Cazenove Road, N.16.

For spiritual progress and social change.  
Meditation classes for men Wednesday 8.00pm  
Meditation classes for women Tuesday 8.00pm and Wednesday 2.00pm.  
Sewing class Tuesday 7.00pm.

## Political Groups

**HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON**

Ernie Roberts MP available on 1st and 3rd Sunday and 2nd and 4th Friday each month. Ken Livingstone GLC Councillor available 4th Thursday each month. Both at 5 Stamford Hill, N.16.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

**HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm, every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Blitchley Street, N1, at 7pm, on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.

**HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

**HACKNEY CENTRAL**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm, every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.  
**HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

**HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE**  
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.  
**HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY**  
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.

**HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP**  
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 128 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

**LONDON WORKERS GROUP**  
For independent militants, working anarchists and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

**ANARCHY COLLECTIVE**  
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

**LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP**  
c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION**  
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

**HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM**  
All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

**SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN HACKNEY GROUP**  
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST CHALLENGE SUPPORTERS GROUP**  
fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Britannia, Mare St.  
Further details from Hackney SC, c/o PO Box 50, London N.1. or from Martin, 359 8180 (day).

**REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)**  
Organises public meetings and study groups in East London. Contact 172 Wandsworth Rd, SW8.

**HACKNEY ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE**  
meets 2nd and 4th Monday of each month in Labour Hall, Dalston Lane. Contact Box 9, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

**NEW COMMUNIST PARTY**  
Hackney Branch meets on a Tuesday night at Centerprise, 8pm. Information from MCP, 395 Welworth Road, SE17 3AW.

**REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST TENDENCY, East London.**  
Contact BM RCT, London WC1V 6XX (274 3951) for details.

**EAST LONDON WORKERS AGAINST RACISM.** Meets on first Tues of each month at Oxford House, Debyshire St, E2. (274 3951).

**SPARTACIST LEAGUE**  
East London. Send for free publications list, details of activities. Box 185, London WC1

## Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

**KINGSMEAD**  
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.

**STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP SERVICE.**  
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3710.  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

**ALLEN ROAD**  
12 Allen Road, N16.  
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

**HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE**  
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446  
Open Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (7.30 on Thursdays).  
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**  
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.  
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

**HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY. 245 Mare St, E8.**  
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.  
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

**HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE**  
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.  
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

**HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU**  
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE**  
5 Stamford Hill, N16.  
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems. FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

**RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE**  
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.  
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems. SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see LABOUR PARTY under POLITICAL GROUPS listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?

## EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

## Workshops

**THE WORKSHOP**  
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082  
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

**COMET WORKSHOP**  
Halscomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.  
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.

**WORKSHOP**  
77a, Lauriston Road, E.9.  
01 986 9585 Open 10.00 - 6.00 Mon. - Sat.  
Pottery workshop and shop selling ceramics and pottery handmade in the workshop. Also Macrame plant hangers, jewellery, cards and other crafts.

## Gays

**GAY SWITCHBOARD**  
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

**EAST LONDON GHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)**  
East London GHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

**GEMMA**  
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

## Transport

**HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE**  
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

**HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP**  
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559

## health

**CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**  
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2 Tel. 739 6308/8351.  
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

**HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY**  
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Perdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

**Volunteers needed at: Huddleston Centre, St James the Great Church, Lower Clapton Rd. E.5. 01 985 8869.**

**THE BIRTH CENTRE**  
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.  
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital. Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

**EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP**  
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

**STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP**  
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

## WOMEN'S NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL CAMPAIGN

Hackney & District branch. Meets at John Scott Health Centre, Green Lanes, N4. Contact Rose McNulty 800 3108 (evenings) or Hilda Burd 800 2124 (anytime).

## Children

**HACKNEY UNDER FIVES**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Information and support for parents with children under school age. Stores open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Open monthly meetings on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tel 254 9145.

**HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9111.  
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Lilian McFetridge

**CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE**  
112b Forest Road E8.  
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

## Food

**TOWARDS JUPITER**  
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394  
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.  
**FOOD FOR ALL**  
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.  
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts.

**SHANTI VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT**  
1 Cazenove Road, N.16

Vegetarian meals.  
Wed, Thurs and Fri 7.00-9.00pm.  
Sat 12.00-2.00pm.  
Full vegetarian meal 65p.

Vegetarian cookery classes:  
Wed 5.30pm and Sat 10.30am.

## Music

**POETRY AND MUSIC CLUB**  
The Chatterbox, 1a, Chatterton Rd, (off Blackstock Rd.) Finsbury Park, N.4.  
Weds. 8.00 - 11.00 p.m.  
All welcome. 20p admission. Performers free.

**ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP**  
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free.  
Ring Dave 249 0025.

**HOME GROWN MUSIC**  
Chats Palace every Thursday at 8.00pm. 50p admission. Floor singers should contact John Lockhart on 986 6714.

**HACKNEY CHESS CLUB**  
Weds. 7.30pm - 10.30pm  
Fri. 7.30pm - 10.00pm  
Centerprise Daily  
Tues. - Sat.  
For any information contact T. Wilson, 135, Manor Road, N.16 5PB.



# REGATTA DE LEA



## HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS holds regular meetings on Mondays at 8pm in our office at 85 Dalston Lane, E8. If you would like to find out more about us - or volunteer to help write, produce or sell the next issue - then please come along. Meetings during September will be on 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd. If you can't come, then please ring 249 0311, evenings and weekends only.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

## Subscribe!

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.40 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, 85 Dalston Lane, E8. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, 85 Dalston Lane, London E8. Telephone 249 0311 (evenings and weekends only).

You may not have been aware of it but over the weekend of 16-17 August Hackney was the scene of a national event. The Lea Valley National Inland Waterways Festival.

Over 500 craft of all shapes and sizes, most of them traditional canal narrowboats, had made their way via the canal system to the River Lea from all over Britain. Some had taken two to three weeks to make their journey, negotiating an average of one lock per mile and a half! Judging from the festival there seems to be a growing interest in narrowboats as working and pleasure craft and as homes. The beginning of this century saw a decline in narrowboat construction (and there were numerous pre-1920 boats in evidence) but there has been a revival of activity since 1970. Of course, much of this is due to the development of the canals by the statutory and commercial leisure sector but this has also led to the growth of several thriving canal-freight companies, who had brought along working narrowboats to the festival. They emphasise how competitive inland waterway transport is. It is cleaner,

cheaper and in many cases quicker and more efficient than road transport.

Full-size narrowboats are over 70 ft long and have a surprisingly large volume of space for cargo. They are joined in tandem and require very small horsepower engines. In fact, two narrowboats can move as much cargo as three to four lorries in one journey.

A growing number of people have taken to living in narrowboats; one has been turned into a 32-seater cinema, and there is even a theatre group based in a narrowboat.

The environmentalist lobby was represented at the festival by the Save the Walthamstow Marshes campaign, rural canal preservation societies from all over Britain, a canal restoring group (their slogan: Fancy A Dirty Weekend?), and the Waterways Museum on Merseyside.

The CAMRA beer tent was popular and amongst a variety of real ales was Godsons Bitter (Hackney's very own real ale) at 58p a pint.

Other distractions included the Auto Angels, an all-women's motorcycle stunt team from Badminton, two work-

ing steam roundabouts, steam engines and the usual selection of arts and crafts (more or less associated with canals) and demonstrations of double-glazing and the like. Even the CEEB had a display to prove how environmentally-minded they are: they have laid new power lines under the towpath of the Regents Canal from Hackney to Paddington and have apparently gone to great lengths to avoid disruption to the use of the canal.

I came away from the festival feeling pleasantly optimistic. Perhaps it was simply the result of the beer tent and the sunshine, but I did get the feeling that we were going to hear quite a bit more over the next few years from those people that care about Britain's waterways and that their numbers are growing - it is vital that we do begin to look seriously at inland waterways, in particular the two canals which pass through Hackney are very valuable resources and have great potential as transport routes and leisure facilities. If they were used more fully they could go a long way towards making life in the area more pleasant.

## New Play Idea in Stoke Newington

The Stoke Newington Festival was the scene of an interesting new play idea that ought to lead to its adoption in other parts of the Borough.

The idea was tried out by the Youth Section of the Stoke Newington Community Association in conjunction with the Stoke Newington Festival Committee. With a mixture of ropes, tyres, cradle nets and fencing, a mobile playground was set on the corner of Stoke Newington Common (on the corner of Northwold and Stoke Newington Common Roads) for the Sunday afternoon. Linked to this was the Hackney Play Association's play frame and a mixture of lanoline and paint for face painting.

## YOUNGSTERS

At first it looked like the youngsters would ignore the mobile playground. A young child mounted the cradle swing and was soon followed by others. Then a mother and child had their faces painted, which led to the child painting the face of a volunteer. From then on it was a busy few hours. A continuous line of kids for face painting, being painted and painting others. A lot of smiling mums and dads and kids using the tyre swings, rope climbs, cradle swing and the play frame.

The exciting thing was the way an idea was able to be adapted to a local common. Given a little help, such a mobile play area could be set up in a street, park or garden - wherever there is interest and a few basic materials, such as were used on the common.

## MEETING

One place where you can discuss the practical aspects of building a mobile or temporary play space is the Hackney Play Association.

The Association will start the first of its regular monthly meetings on 8 October. Each meeting will have a topic, which will introduce a local play project.

If you're interested, the Youth Section can be contacted through Barbara Harris at 13 Hollar Road, N16.

## PETTY BUREAU

OUT OF SCHOOL ...  
OUT OF A JOB ...  
BILL STICKERS WALKS  
THE STREETS ...

WHEREVER HE GOES  
THE SAME THREE  
QUESTIONS RUN THROUGH  
HIS HEAD

WHO AM I?  
WHERE AM I?  
WHAT AM I?

NAME?

HOME  
ADDRESS?

PROFESSION?

